

upheld the principle of non-interference, and accordingly its efforts to safeguard its independence were not directed against any one particular State. The latest remarks by the representative of Portugal did not merit

the Committee's attention, since the world knew the truth.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

1530th meeting

Wednesday, 10 October 1973, at 10.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zewde GABRE-SELLASSIE (Ethiopia).

A/C.2/SR.1530

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Wilfred C. Jenks, Director-General of the International Labour Office

1. The CHAIRMAN paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Wilfred C. Jenks, Director-General of the International Labour Office, the news of whose death had been received with great sadness. Mr. Jenks had contributed much, particularly to the establishment of harmonious working relations among the organizations of the United Nations system, and his passing was a great loss to the entire international civil service.

AGENDA ITEM 101

Consideration of the economic and social situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region stricken by drought and measures to be taken for the benefit of that region (A/9178, A/C.2/L.1290 and Corr.1)

2. Mr. MORSE (Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs) said that the situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region presented to the entire international community, and to the United Nations and the General Assembly in particular, a challenging opportunity to take concerted action to meet one of the most serious tragedies of the present generation.

3. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1759 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Secretary-General had designated FAO to undertake responsibility for the emergency relief operation in the Sahelian countries. Long before that, FAO had been actively concerned with the drought-related problems of the region, and the Director-General of FAO had established a special Office for the Sahelian Relief Operation. He (Mr. Morse) had been designated by the Secretary-General to assume responsibility for medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation efforts.

4. Because of that division of responsibility, he requested that the officer-in-charge of the FAO relief operation, Mr. J. V. A. Nehemiah, Director of the Office of Inter-agency Affairs of FAO, should now be permitted to speak, after which he himself would have something further to say.

5. Mr. NEHEMIAH (Officer-in-Charge of the Sahelian Relief Operation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that he wished first to convey to the Committee the greetings of the Director-General of FAO, who had agreed to supervise the relief operations personally and to be responsible to the Secretary-General for their conduct within the United Nations system as a whole.

6. The special FAO Office for the Sahelian Relief Operation, which he headed, had become operational within days of the agreement between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO as a result of their meeting in Rome on 20 May 1973. From the outset, it had received and continued to receive the co-operation of the United Nations, all the organizations concerned, the UNDP resident representatives in the region and the principal donors who had very generously participated in the co-ordination effort.

7. The five major fields of activity of the Office were the following: monitoring of food shipments and co-ordination of rail and road movements and airlifts of food grains; provision of seed; supply of animal feed and vaccines; co-operation with other members of the United Nations system in non-agricultural fields such as health; and collection of information on the relief activities.

8. As a result of significant bilateral and multilateral aid, the remarkable efforts of the countries themselves, which in some cases had been the crucial factor in saving lives, and the assistance and co-ordination provided by the United Nations through FAO, starvation during the critical months before the harvest had been averted.

9. Outside food supplies continued to arrive in large quantities at the West African ports and would be adequate to meet basic needs before the harvest in late October and early November.

10. The rains had brought some relief to the people and animals alike, and crops and pastures were slowly recovering. The rather heavy rains in some areas in August gave grounds for cautious optimism. For instance, the water level of the rivers Senegal and Niger had risen, a start had been made on transporting food supplies by river, and the two rivers were reported to have flooded. Considering that in 1972 they had failed to flood for the first time in 60 years, those were encouraging signs. However, the September rains did not, unfortunately, seem to have been very steady. In the areas drained by the two rivers, the flooding was not as great as had been expected and the area under "flood-plain" crops had thus been reduced. The multi-donor mission sponsored by FAO was to assess the situation.

11. The absence of a coherent food shipment plan had resulted in significant quantities of the outside food commitments of 470,000 tons arriving at the ports simultaneously with the commencement of the heavy rains in July. The arrangements initiated by the Office had helped to mitigate the situation. Nevertheless, it

had been necessary to establish an airlift, which had been co-ordinated by the Office and had been successful because of the generous contributions of aircraft by various donor countries. Those aircraft had transported grain either from the ports of entry to their final destinations or from the capitals and other central points to outlying and cut-off areas. The total quantities that had been airlifted were not yet known, but they must be in the region of 20,000 tons. The airlift had undoubtedly helped to save thousands of lives.

12. With the end of the rainy season overland transport was beginning to replace the airlift, but in at least three countries air transport was still being used to a large extent. In the case of Mauritania, because of late rains, airlifts would be needed until the end of October on early November. The United States and the Federal Republic of Germany had provided three aircraft, which were already on the spot, and the Office was awaiting two additional Hercules-type aircraft for Mauritania. Any further offers of assistance would be welcome.

13. In the months to come, road transport would assume considerable importance. Some of the donors had committed funds to assist Governments in increasing their road transport capacity by supplying heavy transport vehicles. Others had provided direct bilateral aid. More efforts of that kind were needed, as some countries were now withdrawing their convoys and the countries concerned would have to depend more and more on their own trucking capacity to move essential supplies.

14. Some northward movement of livestock had been observed at the southern edge of the Sahelian zone. Information varied considerably from country to country. In the Upper Volta, pastures in the Sahel were reported to be better than in 1972 and cattle was moving back to the region. In Senegal, pastures had generally improved and cattle owners were reported to be returning to their camps. In Mali, scarcity of rain might have jeopardized regeneration of pastures in large areas and information on cattle movement was vague. Similarly, there was inadequate information from the Niger. In Chad, pasture conditions were very bad in the Kanem area, where very few animals were sighted. However, northward movements of cattle towards Batah, Ouadai and Biltine were reported to be normal. Some herds were still in Giuera blocked by flooding. In Mauritania, pastures were relatively poor and were not expected to support cattle beyond three to four months. Cattle was slowly returning to the third region but might move out again if pastures were insufficient.

15. The Office had had commitments of more than \$1.5 million in Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta for the purchase and distribution of cattle feed. At the same time, an FAO field task force had just completed an assessment of the vaccine and drug treatment needs as part of national campaigns that might be undertaken later in the year with the assistance of the Office and other donors.

16. Co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system, notably the United Nations, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and WMO, had been good. WHO and UNICEF had assisted in evaluating the medical and public health needs, which had been met to the extent needed for the immediate emergency. A WHO survey team report which assessed the needs for 1974

had just been received. Similarly, UNICEF was pursuing programmes for providing food with a high nutritional value to vulnerable groups during the emergency relief period and during 1974, and bilateral donors and the Office had supplied the high-protein food badly needed in certain areas.

17. A major activity of the Office was analysing past experience so as to avoid as far as possible a similar emergency in 1974. In 1973, the late recognition of the magnitude of the shortage, and hence the late arrival of food at its destination, had posed a number of problems. An FAO-sponsored multidonor mission was trying to assess the food and nutritional needs of the countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region for 1973-1974. The idea of a mission of that kind had been approved by the Conference of the Heads of State of the six countries affected by the drought, at Ouagadougou on 11 and 12 September. The mission, in which Canada, France, the United States, EEC, IBRD, WFP, FAO, the Permanent Inter-State Committee and the countries concerned were participating, was currently in the Sahelian region. Its report was expected to be ready at the end of October and would be made available to all donors and to interested countries, institutions and organizations as well as to the General Assembly, if desired, and to the seventeenth session of the FAO Conference in November.

18. Other measures receiving consideration were: continued monitoring of shipments of outside food supplies in order to develop a plan of regulated shipments; strengthening of the road transport capacity of the countries; stockpiling of food grains in isolated and remote areas for the critical four-month period before the rains to avoid costly airlifts; purchase and storage of seeds immediately after the harvest for use in the following year; and animal health measures vital for the protection of surviving animals.

19. The total pledges in response to the Director-General's appeal had reached nearly \$15 million and the amount channelled through the FAO trust fund was about \$8,460,000. However, the total aid might have exceeded \$140 million including food and transport costs and expenditure on airlifts provided by bilateral donors. That was a measure of the concern of the international community. The response from the African countries themselves had been significant and encouraging. All that had been accomplished in the Sahelian zone was the result of a combined effort between the recipient countries themselves, donor countries, non-governmental groups including the mass media, and the organizations of the United Nations system.

20. Economic activity in the Sudano-Sahelian region was dominated by the uncertain climate and poor vegetation. It would therefore be illusory to think that the fragile economies of those least developed among developing countries could recover in a short period. Emergency and intermediate aid would have to be continued as long as necessary to enable the economy of the region to be restored to a more viable condition.

21. Mr. MORSE (Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs) said that, as the note by the Secretary-General (A/9178) indicated, responsibility for the medium-term and long-term co-ordination of assistance efforts had been assigned to him (Mr. Morse). Some measures had already been

taken, including the meeting of 28-29 June 1973 at which all the organizations concerned within the United Nations system and several Governments and other organizations had been present; the establishment of a Special Sahelian Office within the United Nations Secretariat; and the consultations that had taken place with Governments and organizations and with the organizations of the United Nations system in response to the requests and needs of the Sudano-Sahelian States.

22. A distinguishing feature of what had occurred in the Sahel was that the tragedy had been particularly widespread and had inflicted lasting human misery. The calamity required both intensive relief efforts in the immediate future and careful planning over a longer period. The States affected by the drought had made a remarkable and effective effort to join together in fighting against natural forces. In his capacity as President of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, the President of the Republic of the Upper Volta, General Lamizana, had addressed the General Assembly on the previous day (2145th plenary meeting), and ministers from other drought-affected countries had also personally come to the United Nations to be present when the General Assembly considered that item. The Secretary-General would do everything possible to afford to the Permanent Inter-State Committee the resources and assistance necessary to carry out the goals and objectives it had set forth.

23. Although there was no doubt that emergency relief assistance would be required for many months to come, it was also important that longer-term measures should soon be taken to restore the situation and, above all, to avoid a recurrence of the tragedy. The Secretary-General had taken a number of steps to ensure the best possible co-ordination within the United Nations system and hoped that a high degree of co-ordination and co-operation would make it possible, first, to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of the drought-affected countries and, secondly, to avoid duplication and confusion.

24. While in Ouagadougou, he (Mr. Morse) had witnessed the far-reaching devastation and the determination of the Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian region to overcome the present crisis and to prevent its ever happening again. The medium-term and long-term measures that would be necessary to achieve those goals would require an intensive effort and an all-out commitment by the international community. The organizations of the United Nations system were already working together and stood ready to co-operate with everyone in assisting the Sudano-Sahelian region.

25. The Secretary-General, who would be closely following the deliberations of the Second Committee, was prepared to act as fully and as quickly as possible to ensure the full recovery and rehabilitation of the area.

26. Mr. DAKOURÉ (Minister of Agriculture of the Upper Volta) requested that Mr. Nehemiah's statement should be reproduced *in extenso* and circulated to the members of the Committee.

27. After the statement of the President of the Republic of the Upper Volta to the General Assembly and those of Mr. Morse and Mr. Nehemiah to the Second Committee, there was really not a great deal more information to give to Members, but certain points deserved clarification.

28. In the first place, he wished to stress the importance of emergency measures. It was true that the rains had improved the situation slightly, but they had not been sufficient to provide a good crop and that was why relief measures must now be envisaged to bridge the gap until the next harvest.

29. As early as June 1973, the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region and FAO had realized that the lack of means of transport would complicate the shipment of relief supplies enormously. The Sahelian countries had then requested that all the organizations of the United Nations system should take steps to begin shipments of food so that they would be on hand when they were needed. An FAO mission had visited the region and would provide all the information needed to ensure that operations ran smoothly.

30. Due consideration should next be given to medium-term and long-term measures to protect the population from a similar disaster in the future. The Heads of State of the six countries affected by the drought had met in Ouagadougou in September 1973 to study such measures and had established an order of priorities. They had unanimously adopted a report programme (see A/9178, annex V), stressing the need to follow the order of priorities which they had established: emergency programme, national programmes and subregional programmes. They had also tried to limit requests to an acceptable level, but the figure on which they had agreed was well below the region's real needs. Nevertheless, they hoped that the international community would appreciate the gravity of the situation and would make an additional effort.

31. Among national measures, top priority had been accorded to water problems, and to village, agricultural and pastoral water supplies. Next, since the economies of the six countries relied mainly on cattle-grazing, second priority had been accorded to the reconstitution of herds. Furthermore, the reason why the desert was advancing was that the stock of vegetation in the region had been badly managed; third priority had therefore been accorded to reafforestation. Lastly, the fourth highest priority had been given to improving secondary feeder roads because, even in normal times, development efforts were held back both before and after production by transport problems. During the difficult period when relief supplies had had to be transported, the bad state of the roads had posed great problems. That had highlighted the need to improve the entire communication network, especially the secondary feeder roads, which were particularly neglected.

32. Describing the subregional projects of the programme prepared by the six countries, he said that the first objective was to harness the water resources of the region through the construction of dams, intended principally for irrigation, which would make it possible to develop agriculture. Secondly, the crisis caused by the drought had proved the urgent need for inter-State communication routes. The third project concerned a subregional seed plan; varieties of seed that were suited to the region should be developed and particular care should be taken to ensure that farmers received the seed in time, since the planting season was extremely short. Fourthly, there was a subregional plan for reforestation of the region, aimed at establishing a protective belt—the "Sahelian green front" as it had been called—which would protect the entire zone and arrest

the encroachment of the desert. A team was already in the field to rough out the plan, and it was to be hoped that resources would be speedily mobilized to implement it.

33. With regard to subregional co-operation, the Ministers of the Sahelian countries at their meetings held at Ouagadougou from 23 to 27 March and from 7 to 10 September 1973 had recommended the establishment of an applied research institute for the Sahel which would make it possible to co-ordinate the countries' efforts and to avoid any waste of available resources. The institute would work in close co-operation with other institutes and with UNDP. Secondly, since meteorology was a basic factor in the current difficulties, the ministers had also recommended the establishment of a subregional applied meteorology centre. Thirdly, since a large number of qualified personnel would be needed to carry out all those projects, efforts would be made to establish inter-State training centres or to strengthen those already in existence. The fourth project concerned human health, the prevention of epizootic diseases and the protection of food crops. Where health was concerned, the existing agencies and WHO could provide valuable assistance, and the countries of the region would ask the FAO mission to take urgent steps to provide aid in the form of enriched food for children. Some campaigns had already been organized in the fight against epizootic diseases, but the drought had nullified the results. There was thus a need for large-scale cattle vaccination campaigns. Finally, the protection of food crops was extremely important. In some regions, caterpillars had destroyed the few crops it had been possible to grow. A few crop-protection agencies were in existence, but they did not have the necessary facilities.

34. The total cost of the programme evolved by the Ministers of the six drought-stricken countries amounted to roughly \$1,000 million, which was not such a large sum in relation, for example, to the turnover of certain companies or the resources devoted to arms and war. In fact, the original programme had been far more ambitious and that which was now proposed represented an absolute minimum if the countries of the Sahel were to be able to begin the rehabilitation of the region and protect the population from disasters. The countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region were thus asking the General Assembly to give them its help, to mobilize the resources available within the United Nations and to try to obtain contributions from Governments. They thanked all those who had contributed to the efforts made to date and earnestly hoped those efforts would not be relaxed.

35. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1290, said that its purpose was to enable the international community to make the best possible contribution towards implementing the programme which had been drawn up by the drought-stricken countries. The delegations of Egypt, Indonesia and the Sudan had joined the sponsors, and two amendments had been made. Firstly, in operative paragraph 6, the words "on their request" should be inserted after the word "concerned". Also, the following new paragraph 11 had been added:

"Requests the developed countries and the specialized agencies of the United Nations to grant those countries affected by the drought which do not

yet enjoy them the same benefits as are given to the least developed among the developing countries".

36. In the preamble to the draft resolution, the General Assembly took note of the note by the Secretary-General (A/9178) and recalled its resolutions on assistance in cases of natural disaster, together with the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council concerning the drought in the Sudano-Sahelian region. It was to be hoped that all those to whom the Council's resolutions were addressed would be willing to take appropriate action. The sponsors had not felt it necessary to cite in detail in the fourth preambular paragraph all the measures taken by FAO and other specialized agencies since it was well known that they had done everything possible within their limited resources to respond to the appeals made to them. With regard to the fifth preambular paragraph, he hoped that the conclusions of the multi-donor mission would inspire the international community to offer immediate assistance to the countries of the region in view of the disastrous harvests of the current year. He pointed out, with regard to the seventh preambular paragraph, that the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region were all among the least advanced countries and that their growth rate was far lower than the average growth rate of the developing countries; some had even shown a sharp decrease in their *per capita* growth rate. The particular importance of the eighth preambular paragraph, concerning transport, could be appreciated if it was borne in mind that transport facilities worth more than \$50,000 had been required to distribute food-stuffs to a value of \$30,000. That illustrated once again the problems, emphasized time and time again, of the land-locked countries.

37. The first two operative paragraphs called for no special comment. With regard to paragraph 3, it could be argued that it was for the Fifth Committee, not the Second Committee, to authorize the Secretary-General to utilize the resources needed for the work of the Special Sahelian Office; however, the procedure envisaged was aimed at inducing the Secretary-General to ask the Fifth Committee to make the necessary funds available. The recommendations and resolutions of the Heads of State of the drought-stricken countries and the action programme mentioned in paragraph 4 were contained in the annex to the note by the Secretary-General (A/9178). Paragraph 5 was particularly important since, without the co-operation of the developed countries and the assistance they could provide, whether through bilateral programmes or through international organizations, the action programme would remain a dead letter. With regard to paragraph 6, he recalled the discussions held in UNCTAD and in the General Assembly concerning the very heavy public debt-servicing burden borne by the developing countries. It was to be hoped that the appeal made in paragraph 7 to the international financing institutions would be heard and that the latter would do their utmost to simplify and shorten their procedures to take account of the urgency of the problems to be solved. It was also to be hoped that UNDP would react favourably to the request made to it in paragraph 8 and accelerate the pace of the work it was already doing in the field in question. UNDP had already undertaken research into varieties of protein-enriched cereals, and it was to be hoped that that work would be stepped up and directed towards the solution of problems peculiar to the

Sudano-Sahelian region; UNDP could take advantage of assistance from the specialized agencies to that end. The request made to UNEP in paragraph 10, concerning the countries bordering on the Sahara, applied not only to the countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region, but also to those north of the Sahara. Paragraphs 11 and 12 required no special comment. In paragraph 13 the sponsors had made special reference to certain United Nations agencies because their fields of competence corresponded to aspects of the six-country action programme. He hoped that each of those agencies would show all the initiative necessary. He also hoped that the mobilization of financial resources mentioned in paragraph 15 would be intensified and that the requisite co-ordination of all international efforts would continue. Paragraph 18 was addressed particularly to the Fifth Committee, which was invited to provide the funds necessary for the Permanent Inter-State Committee to carry out its task. Paragraph 19 concerned the reports which would be required.

38. He warmly thanked all the countries which had supported the proposal to include item 101 in the agenda, and he hoped that the General Assembly would express its solidarity in concrete terms with the suffering people of the Sudano-Sahelian region, by mobilizing all the forces necessary to implement the action programme drawn up at the Meeting of Ministers.

39. Mr. DELIVANIS (Greece) welcomed the very pertinent remarks of the Minister of Agriculture and the representative of the Upper Volta and commended the high quality of the note by the Secretary-General (A/9178) which was before the Committee. However, he noted that paragraphs 16 and 18 stated that it would probably not be necessary to retain the Secretariat's co-ordinating body, namely, the Special Sahelian Office, once the programme had been launched. He himself considered that on the contrary, the Office would continue to be of use during the implementation of the programme, since he knew by experience that it was during that phase that the greatest problems of co-ordination were likely to appear. Retention of the Office might make the expenditure greater than had been foreseen, but it should not be too difficult to find the necessary resources in view of the importance and urgency of the problem.

40. With regard to the draft resolution introduced by the representative of the Upper Volta, he (Mr. Delivanis) shared his view concerning the importance of the transport problem and of the time factor. It was also important that the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian zone should have access to suitable seed. His own country, once an importer of grain, had become an exporter through the use of seed more suited to domestic conditions.

41. Mr. KUMI (Ghana) said that the item was an important one. Drought was not a new phenomenon in the Sudano-Sahelian region, but the drought currently afflicting certain countries was exceptional in its duration and severity.

42. He had listened with interest to the statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and the representative of FAO. The United Nations seemed to have the situation well in hand. He welcomed the establishment of the Office for the Sahelian Relief Operation, which should enable the United Nations agencies to co-ordinate their activities

and avoid any duplication of effort. He emphasized the need to reduce administrative expenses to a minimum.

43. According to paragraph 18 of the note by the Secretary-General (A/9178) the resources required for the implementation of the activities of the Special Sahelian Office would increase from \$41,500 in 1973 to \$84,000 in 1974; that increase seemed quite high, but it doubtless reflected a considerable extension of activities. In paragraph 20, under the heading "Rental of premises" alone, the cost estimates had increased from \$3,800 in 1973 to \$10,000 in 1974.

44. He noted with interest the positive response of Governments and non-governmental organizations to the appeal by the Director-General of FAO. OAU had set up a relief fund for countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region. Ghana, which was in favour of assistance being accorded multilaterally, had made a contribution of 60,000 cedis.

45. He supported the medium-term and long-term measures adopted by the United Nations and welcomed the establishment by the Sahelian countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee to help them to co-ordinate their efforts. He also supported the draft resolution before the Committee and appealed to the international community to show its solidarity with the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region.

46. Mr. MALAFATOPOULOS (World Health Organization) said that in May 1973 the World Health Assembly had adopted a resolution (WHA26.60) entitled "Drought in Africa" in which it had expressed support for immediate and substantial assistance for the threatened countries in the Sudano-Sahelian zone, and had requested the Director-General to implement the essential prophylactic and therapeutic measures required by the situation.

47. After the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 1759 (LIV) the Director-General of WHO had immediately informed both the Secretary-General and the Director-General of FAO, who was acting as focal point for the emergency relief operation, of WHO's wish to co-operate fully in meeting the health problems arising from the drought situation. The WHO Regional Office for Africa had contacted the six Governments concerned, and at their request had made available urgently-needed medical supplies to prevent an outbreak of epidemic and endemic diseases, including cholera. Those supplies were, and continued to be, airlifted from Geneva with the help of the Swiss Government. WHO had also sent experts to assist the Governments in determining their needs and the kind of measures appropriate to meet them.

48. As part of WHO's regular programme, antecedent to the current emergency, there were already about 22 assisted projects, manned by 50 staff members in the drought-stricken countries. In addition to those projects, FAO, WHO, UNDP and IBRD were engaged in the implementation of a large-scale programme to prevent onchocerciasis, a disease which affected several of the drought-stricken countries, with serious economic and social consequences.

49. The health problems involved in the Sudano-Sahelian zone, which had been carefully studied, were those resulting from under-nutrition and malnutrition, problems of communicable disease resulting from lack of sanitation and water supplies, and the development

of the necessary basic infrastructure. WHO had maintained contact with ministries of health and others in the Governments of the countries concerned, with a view to providing the necessary health assistance in their over-all reconstruction effort, and such other services as met their priority needs.

50. WHO, as the agency responsible for health matters in the international community, was most interested in the health aspects of the various project proposals developed by the recent meetings of Ministers and the Conference of the Heads of State of the six countries affected by the drought, held at Ouagadougou. It would maintain contact with the Secretary-General's office in that connexion throughout the elaboration of the medium-term and long-term programme by the Special Sahelian Office and the subsequent implementation of those projects.

51. WHO would continue to do its utmost to alleviate the plight of the drought-stricken countries, and to that end would continue to co-operate closely with the Special Sahelian Office—to which it was ready to give staff assistance and advice as required—with UNICEF and FAO, and with the countries offering bilateral assistance in the fields of health and nutrition.

52. Mr. OMAR (Libyan Arab Republic) said that the international community must take speedy measures to prevent the disaster threatening the life of 6 million people. The results of action undertaken by the United Nations had so far been satisfactory but efforts had to be sustained since famine had not yet been conquered. The Libyan people, in a spirit of solidarity and in the light of its own experience, had provided financial and material assistance which, although modest, would none the less help to attenuate the suffering of the peoples of the Sahel. The United Nations had to do all in its power to remedy the situation, and Libya would support any decisions to that effect adopted by the Committee. He also asked that his country be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

53. Mr. CHIRILA (Romania) said that three years previously his country had experienced disastrous floods, and at that time many States and organizations had shown sympathy and provided assistance. In a spirit of solidarity, Romania would co-operate with other States and United Nations bodies to help the Sahelian countries. His Government had decided to provide aid in the form of food and medical supplies to each of the countries in the area.

54. He hoped that the survey of the situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region would give countries the opportunity of co-operating to create the conditions necessary for economic revival in the area, and to prevent such a disaster from recurring. To the efforts of the

international community must be added those of the countries concerned themselves. He was convinced that to give the developing countries the assistance required, there had to be greater co-operation between States and the specialized agencies. His delegation supported the draft resolution.

55. Mr. HOSNY (Egypt) supported the measures recommended by the representatives of the Upper Volta and FAO, and by Mr. Morse, and said that Egypt had provided assistance according to its means to the drought-stricken countries. He felt that bilateral and multilateral assistance was essential to protect the peoples of those countries and to prevent disaster overtaking them again. Everyone was agreed that the international community had not done enough to help the developing countries, particularly the least developed of them, which included the six countries in the Sudano-Sahelian zone. He therefore urged the international community to implement the programme approved by the six Heads of State of the countries concerned and hoped that the report, mentioned by the FAO representative, of the multi-donor mission to assess the needs of the Sahel for the period 1973-1974, would be distributed to members of the General Assembly. His delegation hoped that draft resolution under consideration would be approved and implemented without delay.

56. Mr. ČABRIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation had been pleased to take part in drawing up draft resolution A/C.2/L.1290. The prevailing situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region was particularly distressing, but many other regions of the world were also in dire poverty and might also be stricken by similar or worse disasters. The six countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region were among the least developed of the developing countries and their situation was further aggravated by the fact that they were land-locked. The co-ordinated action undertaken by those countries and their efforts to apply a programme of emergency measures themselves were praiseworthy. It was to be hoped that they would obtain the necessary resources from the international community, and Yugoslavia supported their initiative to that end.

57. The draft resolution accurately apportioned the responsibility for the tasks among the various bodies, and appealed to the Governments of developed countries to take the measures required. He hoped that the draft would be not only adopted but fully implemented. It was to be hoped that the case of the Sahel would provide the opportunity of incorporating in the International Development Strategy new measures designed to promote collective economic security.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.